

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A gelled anode mixture comprising a metal alloy powder, a gelling agent, an alkaline electrolyte, and a surfactant having the general formula $Y SO_x^-$ in an amount sufficient to reduce gassing and maintain performance relative to an anode lacking the surfactant, wherein x is 3 or 4, and wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkylaryl group, and a carboxy acid group, ~~and a salt of any of the foregoing.~~

2. Cancelled

3. (Original) A gelled anode mixture as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the surfactant is a salt of a sulfated octadecanoic acid.

4. (Original) A gelled anode mixture as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the surfactant is a sodium salt of sulfated oleic acid.

5. Cancelled

6. (Original) A gelled anode mixture as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising an organic phosphate ester surfactant.

7. (Previously Presented) A gelled anode mixture as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the organic phosphate ester surfactant is an ethylene oxide-adduct organic phosphate ester.

8. Cancelled

9. Cancelled

10. (Previously Presented) A gelled anode mixture as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the surfactant is a salt of a sulfated octadecanoic acid.

11. (Previously Presented) A gelled anode mixture as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the surfactant is a sodium salt of sulfated oleic acid.

12. Cancelled

13. Cancelled.

14. Cancelled

15. (Previously Presented) A gelled anode mixture comprising a an alloyed zinc powder, a gelling agent, an alkaline electrolyte, a sodium salt of sulfated oleic acid and an ethylene oxide-adduct organic phosphate ester.

16. Cancelled

17. (Currently Amended) An alkaline electrochemical cell comprising:
a positive current collector;
a cathode in contact with the positive current collector;
a gelled anode comprising a alloyed zinc powder, a gelling agent, an alkaline electrolyte, and a surfactant having the general formula $Y SO_x^-$ in an amount sufficient to reduce gassing and maintain performance relative to a cell lacking the surfactant, wherein x is 3 or 4, and wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkylaryl group, and a carboxy acid group, ~~and a salt of any of the foregoing~~;
a separator between the cathode and the anode; and
a negative current collector in electrical contact with the anode.

18. Cancelled

19. (Previously Presented) An alkaline electrochemical cell as claimed in Claim 17 wherein the surfactant is a salt of a sulfated octadecanoic acid.

20. (Previously Presented) An alkaline electrochemical cell as claimed in Claim 17 wherein the surfactant is a sodium salt of sulfated oleic acid.

21. Cancelled

22. (Previously Presented) An alkaline electrochemical cell as claimed in Claim 17 further comprising an organic phosphate ester surfactant.

23. (Previously Presented) An alkaline electrochemical cell as claimed in Claim 22 wherein the organic phosphate ester surfactant is an ethylene oxide-adduct organic phosphate ester.

24. Cancelled.

25. Cancelled.

26. Cancelled.

27. Cancelled.

28. Cancelled

29. Cancelled

30. Cancelled

31. (Previously Presented) An alkaline electrochemical cell comprising an alloyed zinc powder, a gelling agent, an alkaline electrolyte, a sodium salt of sulfated oleic acid and an ethylene oxide-adduct organic phosphate ester.

32. Cancelled

33. (Previously Presented) A method for reducing gassing and maintaining cell performance in an alkaline electrochemical cell, the steps comprising:

providing a positive current collector;

placing a cathode in contact with the positive current collector;

providing a gelled anode comprising a alloyed zinc powder, a gelling agent, an alkaline electrolyte, and a surfactant having the general formula $Y SO_x^-$ in an amount sufficient to reduce gassing and maintain performance relative to a cell lacking the surfactant,

wherein x is 3 or 4, and wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkylaryl group, and a carboxy acid group, ~~and a salt of any of the foregoing~~;
placing a separator between the cathode and the anode; and
placing a negative current collector in electrical contact with the anode.

34. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 33, wherein the surfactant is a salt of a sulfated octadecanoic acid.

35. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 33, wherein the surfactant is a sodium salt of sulfated oleic acid.

36. Cancelled

37. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 33, further comprising the step of providing an organic phosphate ester surfactant.

38. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 37, wherein the organic phosphate ester surfactant is an ethylene oxide-adduct organic phosphate ester.

39. Cancelled

40. Cancelled

41. Cancelled

42. Cancelled

43. Cancelled

44. Cancelled

45. (New) A gelled anode mixture as claimed in Claim 1 wherein Y is further selected from a salt of at least one of the groups.

46. (New) An alkaline electrochemical cell as claimed in Claim 17 wherein Y is further selected from a salt of at least one of the groups.

47. (New) The method as recited in claim 33, wherein Y is further selected from a salt of at least one of the groups.